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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Small arms

Argentina, Ecuador, Japan and South Africa: draft resolution

Small arms

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and the commitment of Member States to take concrete steps in order to strengthen that role,

Realizing the urgent need to resolve underlying conflicts, to diminish tensions and to accelerate efforts towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control with a view to maintaining regional and international peace and security in a world free from the scourge of war and the burden of armaments,

Reaffirming the inherent right to individual or collective self-defence recognized in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, which implies that States also have the right to acquire arms with which to defend themselves,

Realizing that arms obtained through the illicit arms trade are most likely to be used for violent purposes, and that even small arms when so obtained, directly or indirectly, by terrorist groups, drug traffickers or underground organizations can pose a danger to regional and international security, and certainly to the security and political stability of the countries affected,

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Noting the report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council entitled "Supplement to An Agenda for Peace" 1/ which stressed the urgent need for "practical disarmament in the context of the conflicts the United Nations is actually dealing with and of the weapons, most of them light weapons, that are actually killing people in the hundreds of thousands", 2/ and which identified light weapons as including, inter alia, small arms and anti-personnel land mines,

Recalling its resolution 49/75 G of 15 December 1994, in which it welcomed the initiative taken by Mali concerning the question of the illicit circulation of small arms and their collection in the affected States of the Saharo-Sahelian subregion, as well as the action taken by the Secretary-General in implementation of this initiative,

Taking note of the work of the Disarmament Commission on international arms transfers,

1. Requests the Secretary-General, within the existing resources, to prepare a report, with the assistance of a panel group of qualified governmental experts to be nominated by him on the basis of equitable geographical representation, on:

(a) The types of small arms and light weapons actually being used in conflicts being dealt with by the United Nations;

(b) The nature and causes of the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and transfer of small arms and light weapons, including their illicit production and trade;

(c) The ways and means to prevent and reduce the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and transfer of small arms and light weapons, in particular as they cause or exacerbate conflict;

with particular attention to the role of the United Nations in this field and to the complementary role of regional organizations, and taking into account views and proposals of Member States and all other relevant information, for submission to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

2. Also requests the Secretary-General to seek the views and proposals of Member States on the matters contained in paragraph 1, to collect all other relevant information and to make them available for consideration by the panel of governmental experts referred to in paragraph 1;

3. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled "Small arms".

1/ A/50/60-S/1995/1.

2/ Ibid., para. 60.